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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose,

#### The Easiest Thing in the World.

Mr. TAFT is to speak in Boston on Monday night and in Ohio about three weeks later. We observe some expectation that on one of these occasions the amiable and accomplished gentleman will endeavor to persuade his auditors that he possesses decided and positive individuality as a candidate as well as individuality as a man; in other words, that the Secretary will try to differentiate himself from Mr. ROOSEVELT and his policies, which now bestride the unhappy shoulders of this Sinbad of the Seven Seas.

We observe, also, that the unloading is generally regarded by the philosophical as a delicate and difficult undertaking, If not as impossible of achievement.

On the contrary, it would be as easy as rolling off a log.

Suppose, for example, that Mr. TAFT should say to the assembled Boston merchants to-morrow night:

"The vast individual and corporate fortunes, the vast combinations of capital which have marked the development of our industrial system, create new conditions but alter no principle of right, of justice or of law. I do not believe that the new conditions necessitate a change from the old attitude of the State and the nation toward property."

The three letters italicized will do the work of differentiation.

#### Ex-Secretary Hitchcock's Incomplete Presentation of the Facts.

In an address delivered before the Commercial Club of Chicago on December 14 the Hon. ETHAN ALLEN HITCH-COCK, formerly Secretary of the Interior, bestowed upon his audience a vast deal of most valuable information and enlightenment-that is to say, it would have been valuable, not to say invaluable, if his hearers had been furnished with a key. Mr. HITCHCOCK said

"The policy of the Department was to strik high and hit hard, whenever the law and the evibelieving, as I did and do, that the law maker who deliberately becomes a law breaker is the greater criminal, and should be dealt with without mercy, when compared with, in many cases, the unwilling tool, who, ignorant of the law, has yielded to temptation at the solicitation of those higher up, who have inaugurated the crime."

"The policy of the Department!" We know all about that while Mr. HITCH-COCK presided over it. But what has become of that policy and of all the high purposes which animated its author and official representative? There is and can be no question as to Mr. HITCHCOCK's brave and honorable course. The criminals were there in plain view. The machinery for their pursuit, capture and imprisonment was thoroughly equipped. Why, then, did the Secretary of the Interior abandon an enterprise which he had organized himself and which at that time possessed every promise of entire

Nobody believes that he did so because of any faint hearted hesitation. Nobody imagines that he withdrew on account of a personal sense of unfitness for the

Mr. HITCHCOCK stopped short of thorough explanation. He should have told the Commercial Club why he resigned from the Cabinet at the very moment when "the policies" seemed sure of easy consummation.

Is it conceivable, for instance, that he had mistaken the real meaning of those policies and retired in despair when at last he saw the light?

# The Situation in Moracco

It begins to look as if, notwithstanding the vigilant jealousy evinced in Berlin and in spite of the restrictive agreement made at Algeciras, the pressure of events may justify and in truth compel France and Spain to occupy large sections of

Morocco. for some weeks attention has been concentrated on the eastern border owing to the invasion of Algeria by the Beni Snassen, a confederacy of warlike tribes that have shown signs of excitement ever since the French seizure of Oujda, a Moroccan frontier town. They have been defeated in several engagements by the French forces, which now comprise some 25,000 men, to say nothing of the reserves, concerning which no statistics have been published. Unable to make head against such a preponderance of strength, the Beni Snassen will no doubt be reduced to submission, but this will by no means prove a solution of the frontier problem.

According to a telegram from Tangier it is deemed probable that no sooner will the Beni Snassen country have been occupied than the Riffian clans in the adjoining region may harass the French outposts and thus compel further coercive action. Indeed, according to a report current in Tangier, the Riffians

are already arming and mobilizing for

scarcely attempt to discipline the Rifflans without having obtained previously the permission of Spain, whose fortress at Melike gives her a recognized sphere of influence extending to a river which divides the Beni Snassen from their Rifflan neighbors. South of the Span sphere lies the stronghold of Tazza, which is more than 2,000 feet above the sea level and commands the main road to ? 3, that capital being only four s so days march distant westward. Here the power of Rogui, the eastern pretender, is paramount, and his tribesmen are reported to be eager for a fight with the French.

If now we turn to western Morocco we find that French cruisers are awaiting the first indications of local disturbances in the seaports to bombard and occupy them. What is going on in the open country behind these ports is known only by rumor, although it seems certain that MULAI HAFID, the pretender of the south, has retreated toward the city of Morocco, owing to his total lack of funds and consequent inability to procure supplies. The inference is that he has renounced the intended expedition to Fez, where there is reason to believe that he would have been received with acclamation. The reigning Sultan, ABDUL Aziz, remains at Rabat, and having obtained a loan from the French Government has been able to keep considerable forces in the field. How soon he will venture to return to Fez is doubtful.

It may be recalled that the raids un-

dertaken by the Beni Snassen into Algeria have for a pretext the preaching of a jehad or holy war by a more or less frenzied marabout. Similar outbreaks may be caused in the same way at any moment in the coast towns, and suspicions have been expressed in Berlin that French agents provocateurs may be employed to incite them. These suspicions seemed to be reflected in the latest speech on the subject made by Chancellor von Bulow in the Reichstag, RICHARD WAGNER. who said that Germany could not witness with equanimity the attempt of any Christian Power to annex or occupy permanently sections of Morocco, although he admitted that owing to the failure to organize the police force prescribed by the Algerias convention the temporary use of French and Spanish soldiers in areas of disturbance could not be avoided. The warning was not lost upon M. CLEMENCEAU, who has since declared in the Chamber of Deputies that while France must repel and chastise the Beni Snassen, who had invaded her Algerian territory, she had no intention of occupying permanently any other Moroccan town except Oujda. Else where the presence of her forces would be temporary. For the moment the Berlin Government has accepted the reassurance

Temporary is a vague word, however, The alleged motive of the French expedition against Tunis was purely punitive, and ostensibly provoked by incursions of Tunisian frontiersmen into Algeria Tunis, nevertheless, has been a French dependency ever since. When an English army occupied Cairo after the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, the British Government averred that the occupation would continue only until the country had been pacified. The assurance was publicly renewed over and over again by Mr. GLADSTONE, A British army still remains in the Nileland notwithstanding. There is, to be sure, a distinction to between the Egypt and Morocco. In the two former instances Germany was acquiescent; indeed. BISMARCK is believed to have suggested the annexation of the Tunisian Regency to France. On the other hand, Germany is determined that Morocco shall fall under the control of no European Power. It is for this reason that the aspects of the Moroccan question, as they vary from day to day, are watched with grave anxiety.

## The Real Problem of the Navy.

Pending the publication of Admiral Brownson's letter-an event which may occur at any moment or be indefinitely delayed, according to the mental proc esses of the President—the country will have had ample opportunity for an intelligent analysis of Surgeon-General RIX-Ey's proclamation which presents the other side of the question. There is reason to believe, moreover, that the Brownaon statement, if its publication should be postponed to any great extent, will have been anticipated by public opinion as based upon the intrinsic merits of the

Rixey argument. The truth is that Dr. RIXEY, who is a excellent physician, an experienced bureau chief and a bear hunter of long established fame, has not been fortunate in his postulates and syllogisms so far as concerns purely naval matters. Nor indeed could the contrary have been expected by any fair minded and well balanced person. The doctor has set up arguments in this case which will not bear the most easygoing inquiry; he has planted himself upon hypotheses as precarious and unsubstantial as fairy tales. He quotes, for instance, the history of the hospital and other transport ships of the army, yet if Congress were to ordain an investigation of that record -and in view of the present and promised proportions of the current scandal such an investigation is indispensable it would be found that so far from supporting Dr. RIXEY's position the facts constitute an almost unanswerable plea in protest and dissussion. The doctor fares no better in his appeal to the Hague conference, and when we consider his citation of the Japanese example as he imagines it the mystery deepens rapidly. The best informed line officers who have commanded ships and squadrons on the Asiatic station, and who ought to know more about such things than the staff chieftains who stay in Washington, are by no means sure that any such system prevails and are altogether persu that even if it does the United States Navy does not need to model itself and

its policies upon the Japanese. But we have still to weigh the cons quences of this precedent should Congress conclude to countenance it. If surgeons are to be put in command of hospital supply ships in the navy, why duped. Her huge fortune had almost should not officers of the pay corps be

repair ships, and what particular landsmen shall strut upon the bridges of the colliers and add their voices to the general discord?

Truly there is only one side of this deplorable controversy which is entitled to serious and respectful consideration. The really practical question is whether the bureau chiefs, who control the political patronage and are in a position to endear themselves to Congressmen with strikers and henchmen to reward, are to be allowed to destroy the morale of the navy and block every effort on the part of the fighting contingent to maintain its efficiency.

There is no other problem visible.

Tragic Comedians. Fate and its sigzag caprice seldon showed such edged irony as it did in the case of BAIZAC's marriage and death. During his too short life this Sisyphus of French fiction rolled up many steep hills to fame, not alone his Human Comedy, but he also fabricated the legend of HONORE DE BALZAC-BALZAC the monstrous workman of art; BALZAC over head and heels in debt, heroically paving away fortunes to printers and mythical creditors; the chaste BALZAC, withal man of sentiment, leading a cenobitic existence, father confessor to all pretty women in trouble; a turbulent St. Anthony in a white dressing gown.

The world, ever greedy for such in congruities of genius, accepted the portrait, and since BALZAC's death with the aid of sentimentalists there has been but one RALZAC-the BALZAC of BALZAC'S own romancing. Not even the created vision of Ropin, who interpreted the writer as seer, poet, philosopher, has disturbed the image of the original ink made BALZAC. NIETZSCHE was right in warning us that the autobiographies of great men should be always suspected; he mentioned but two names: VICTOR HUGO and

It is rather late to quote the discoveries of that persistent Balzac student SPEL-BOERCH DE LOVENJOUL: iconoclast vet ardent explorer of manuscripts, he has told us much of the real BALZAC. It was LEON GOZLAN (the Nathan of the Comedy?) who denied the existence of the vast debts; they were, he declared. largely illusions of the novelist-though BALZAC was never free from money troubles. The women in his life! It is safe to consult LOVENJOUL on this much discussed and dangerous theme. Comedian that he was. BALZAC played upon every string of the erotic and sentimental lyre, but never plucked such resounding music as he did in the Hanska affair; Mme. HANSKA, the wife of the amiable M. HANSKI and after his too tardy death for a few months the wife of HONORE DE BALZAC.

In his "Choses Vues" VICTOR HUGO informed the world of the lamentable ending to this most remantic of love matches. It may be remembered that BALZAC began corresponding with his 'Stranger" when he was thirty-three. HANSKI the husband died in 1841; a year later RALZAC went to Russia. Vet his marriage was delayed till April, 1850. The fair lady was "difficult." She would and she would not. She was very rich-so BALZAC believed. And he was earning a fabulous income-so Mme. HANSKA was assured by her impetuous Man Mountain. In the interim he was as ever up to his neck in hot water, scalding hot. These things the Slavic heroine may or may not have known. What did it matter? BALZAC a genius! But why was she so fearful of taking the final step? That she had premonitions of unhappiness we have read. Were there no other reasons; was there not one reason, say, another lover?

The question has been answere though a thrice told tale for literary Paris) in a novel by OCTAVE MIRBEAU recently published and entitled "La 628 -E 8"; an automobile fiction it is, not of the kind fit for young persons. In a certain chapter now no longer existent M. MIRBEAU-once upon a time a fiery literary anarchist-relates the confession made to him by JEAN GIGOUX (1806-1894) a talented painter of the Romantic school. Le Temps printed the text of this confession last month. Its publication called forth a protest from an unexpected source. The daughter of Mme. HANSKA, by her first marriage, protested in the name of filial affection against the desecration of her dead mother's name She signed herself HANSKA, Comtess DE MNISZECH. It was like a voice from the tomb, this letter of a venerable lady M. MIRBEAU was evidently touched. He despatched a gallant apology to the Countess and ordered his publishers to suppress the offensive chapter. It is safe to say that nearly every newspaper of note in France reprinted the Temps articles and the correspondence of the parties interested. Later Francois Ponsari entered into the discussion. The daughter of Mme. HANSKA denied that her mother had been on intimate terms with the painter JEAN GIGOUX at the time of BALZAC's death. But it is an undeniable fact that she was his friend more than thirty years, though the date of their meeting is impossible to fix. Why is it when such startling assertions are made that the diaries and papers of GIGOUX are not searched by his friends? He was a copious gossip, and his souvenirs "Causeries sur les artistes de mon temps," are still read for their shrewd wit and true critical flashes. A man whose pen knew no brother. To confirm his tale there is, besides Hugo the further testimony of the Camboyan BARBEY D'AUREVILLY.

BALZAC and his wife returned to Paris in May, 1850. The novelist was in a semi-dying condition, his heart and liver hopelessly diseased. His friends were shocked at his changed physical condition. They noted, too, that the marriage was desperately unhappy. Eight days after the return-it is GIGOUX who is talking-the enamored lady resolved to live apart from her sick husband; not even at meals did they meet. She was, to all purposes, further from the miserable man in Paris than she was when at Wierschownia. They had been doubly vanished, and his there were the debts!

put in command of store ships and officers | Her dream of social glory was dissipated. of the construction corps in command of BALZAC was mortally ill. Few friends sought them out. The terrible day of August, 1850, when Dr. NACQUART confessed to BALZAC that he had few hours to live, VICTOR HUGO called, but did not see Mme. BALZAC nor the mother of BALZAC. "Tell me the truth." cried the novelist. "You have a strong soul," answered NACQUART, "so hear the truth -you are lost." BALZAC'S face quivered. When shall I die?" "This night, perhaps." His answer to this news is his toric. "Send for Bianchon—he alone can

save me." His fiction to the last.

Mme. BALZAC was then with he

friend JEAN GIGOUX in her apartment A double knocking at her door, a Macbethlike knocking, apprised her of the fatal moment. "Monsieur is passing" was the first "call"-as they say in the theatre-"Monsieur is dead" the second. GIGOUX, who was explicit to a Gallie degree, describes Madame's annoyance. She screamed: "Take me back to Russia. to Russia!" She foresaw the bother and ennui of funeral ceremonies; however, she attired herself appropriately, and at the funeral she "was dignified, noble and very sad, very literary; Andromaque herself when she had lost her Hector. The chivalric GIGOUX did not fail to etch this piquant portrait of a woman whom BARBEY D'AUREVILLY described as an imposing beauty.

As if nature had been jealous of her recording secretary" this mean, sinister farce seems to have been written by her as an epilogue to BALZAC's "Physiology of Marriage." Where in any of his novels is there a chapter more Balzacian than the story of his last hours as related by D'AUREVILLY, Hugo and Gigoux? GIGOUX! What a Balzac name, "predes tinated," as he would have said, to make others unhappy! "This cold being." wrote Hugues Rebell, "was without sex. without heart; even a monster, for she had not the simple compassion of the animal." Her end was anonymous, " figure which BALZAC would have loved to study and present; among the grimiest in the Comedy." Poor BALZAC! Poor tragic comedians!

#### Fits and Butin.

Gall, wormwood and citric acid in bitter parts were mixed in the draught which was served this week to Firs, the deposed Lord Mayor of Boston, and JOHN BUTIN who in helping depose him has deprived himself for two years at least of the joy ous pastime of political indictments.

On Thursday Firs, once the idol o eather throated throngs, who has addressed an aggregate of 23,000,000 people since his twenty-third year and has defended himself before assemblages ranging from 2,300 to 23,000, found his audience reduced to twenty-three. After conducting his forlorn hope from 23 Court street in a joint municipal ownership motor car the digits of whose license number added up twenty-three, this was about what he might have expected; but it is said to have pained Firs that when he finally faced his ancient enemy for the first time on any platform it should have been in the Grand Jury room, where the reporters could not penetrate. There was but one consolation. BUTIN was sparring under the same rules.

According to a veracious local narraive Firs could be seen through the court house windows posed with his arms folded hour after hour on the stand. Eve but not ear witnesses of this pantogrand little man was feeding sugar from all his vats into those twenty-three picked men, resolved that when he and BUTIN should enter for the City Hall futurity stakes those twenty-three at least should

Mockery of justice! The one man in the world who needs to drive questions hard as nails into Firs's coffin with a sounding board behind and a megaphone in front to bear the noise to all Suffolk: that's MORAN. The one man in the world who is on the point of exploding if he isn't allowed to square himself with the town that turned his picture to the wall: that's Firs. And a narrow and juiceless jury system coops them both up in a dungeon whence no voice can reach the outer airs, no Boston reporter catch the faintest echo, and bids them empty their booming bosoms unheard.

It is understood the Mayor Emeritus that shall be and the Mayor Expectant (if juries grand and petty will drop red tape and get on the Moran band wagon) will jointly petition the General Court for an act providing that all Grand Jury sessions shall bereafter be held on the stage of Faneuil Hall.

When a policemen is accused in a police court of being drunk and assaulting a citizen at the Brooklyn Bridge entrance or else where it simplifies matters exceedingly i he displays a complete oblivion of the circumstances combined with a readiness apologize for the things he forgets. The beneficiary of the apology does not usually make trouble; he is rather glad to escape another clubbing, and of course the Magistrate cannot be expected to interfere with the amicable solution of a dispute between

The public, however, is more or les likely to watch the newspapers for a day or two after to see if the Police Department has been equally easy.

Everybody seems to like Surgeon Storks His personal worth and his personal fitnes to command a hospital ship are not involved in one of the most interesting and provoca-tive questions of administrative policy that have ever arisen in the navy.

## Whon the Floot Passes Through Magella

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Will ou warships exercise the prerogative or option of taking a pilot in the Magellan Strait? Sometimes it seems that we cannot get our hattleships to sea past the West Bank without taking the mud, even with a pilot aboard, if there should be more than one ship going to sea. Didn't Prince Louis of Battenberg's squadron of four first class cruisers enter the harbor at 15 knots without a pilot in a

strange port?

Let us trump that trick by passing through the Strait of Magellan without a pilot. Can't our ship do it? Why not prove that while it is options the home ports, they can successfully navigat foreign waters. Let them illustrate their abilit to handle the chart, the lead and the compass. NEW YORK, December 27. CAPB PROWARD

In Doubt. -Did you have a tiff? Bella-Yes, but I don't know whether it was an

INTERSTATE PROHIBITION. What Constitutes "Arrival" of Liquor in

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. Tillman should be convinced by this time that he can do good work in the Senate when he behaves like the good "State rights Democrat" that he says he is. Bryan once upon a time posed as a champion vindicator of the faith of Jefferson, but now he keeps step with Roosevelt.

"Bry" State?

Hostility to the use of intoxicating ber erages threatened havor with the Roosevelt Bryan employment of interstate commerce power in a way to suppress those State rights that Tillman vindicates, but it now seems as if he had successfully persuaded the lawyers of the Senate to turn the corner of the difficulty. Probably he has at the same time turned for Roosevelt and Fairbanks the corner of the peril they were in growing out of the champagne incident at St. Louis and "cocktails" at the Vice-President's luncheon. The Prohibition party did not deposit

great number of votes in the ballot boxes at the last Presidential contest, not 260,000 out of thirteen and a half millions, but it has since been vigorously marching on and demanding that the liquor traffic be suppressed like "trusts." It declared at its nationa convention in Indianapolis on June 30, 1904 that intoxicating liquors must, like lottery tickets, insect pests and diseased food, be excluded from interstate transportation and the channels of interstate trade. Mr Tillman and South Carolina do not yet go quite so far. That State endeavors to maintain in its jurisdiction a monopoly (Bryan condemns monopolies) of the liquor traffic. Like several other States, South Carolina is "dry." The prohibition blizzard was strenuous everywhere last November. ) but yet Mr. Tillman now asks only that intoxicating beverages shall not by interstate commerce be forced into a "dry" State and there sold in violation of the laws of that State and, as he claims, of State rights. He seems to realize that it will not be as easy to persuade Congress to exclude from all interstate trade a business that uses \$612,500,000 of capital and pays annually into the Washington Treasury more than \$207,000,000 in taxes, as it was to expel lottery tickets. If the banishment were ordered by Congress and a State deserves the penalty of disobedience there might, till custom has changed, be as much difficulty in getting jurors to convict as Roosevel has said there is in obtaining verdicts under the railway and trust laws.

Mr. Tillman explained to the Senate that the question where the police power begins and where the interstate power of Congress ends has been one which has harassed and bedevilled every State which has undertaken to control liquor." He referred to his own experience as Governor of South Carolina. He said he had examined the decisions of the Supreme Court in reference to it and watched the gradual shading away and obliteration and suspension of the Wilson law of August 8, 1890, a copy of which he held in his hand. He asked the Senate to declare when and where the State rights of South Carolina in the liquor traffic began and the power of Congress ended. He was not to be put off 'by palaver. He insisted that Congress could and should control the whole question in the interest of State rights and State prohibition. The Senate lawyers finally agreed with him that the pretensions of interstate commerce could and should be curbed despite Roosevelt and Bryan. All that was needed was that Congress withdraw from exercise of power to prevent a 'dry" State from prohibiting persons who had received intoxicants from a "wet" State from selling them in "the original package." be it a four ounce vial, a quart bottle or

quarter cask. The Supreme Court has declared that South Carolina and every other State can permit or prohibit the manufacture and sale of whatever the State may ordain including distilling, brewing and selling of intoxicants, and even create monopolies, interfere with interstate trade. Both powers-that of the State and Congress-are only police powers. The State can protect its people and Congress can prohibit the States from obstructing interstate channels, but ought not itself to obstruct them to the detriment of interstate free trade.

Senator Knox lucidly explained that the Supreme Court had decided that commerce between the States was under the exclusive control of the Congress of the United States, and that it was an incident to the right to engage in interstate commerce that the consignee of intoxicating liquors shipped from one State into another had the right to sell those liquors in the "original package." Could Congress, or should the Supreme Court, define that commerce? In 1890 Congress enacted:

That all fermented, distilled or other intoxicating liquors or liquids transported into any State of Territory or remaining therein for use, consumption, sale or storage therein shall upon arrival in such State or Territory be subject to the opera-tion and effect of the laws of such State or Territory enacted in the exercise of its police powers to the same extent and in the same manner as though such liquids or liquors had been produced in such State or Territory, and shall not be exempt therefrom by reason of being introduced therein

n original packages or otherwise. That enactment the Court said was conaritutional, but held that "arrival in such State" was when the intoxicants were received by the buyer or consignee, and not necessarily when they had crossed the boundary of the "dry" State. That decision prevented South Carolina from seizing the intoxicants as soon as they had crossed the line and gave the owner opportunity to sell them. The dispute and need of remeda were over "arrival." Congress worried, or was worried, over the word during its last session. There was a going in fear of the temperance voters, demands by leaders of the interstate commerce squad as well as the distillers and brewers, but Mr. Tillman obtained a few days ago a general consenthat the statute of 1890 be amended by inserting apt words to curb interstate commerce pretensions and enable the "dry State to take possession of the liquors as soon as they crossed its boundary. State rights won, temporarily at least, a victory in the Senate. Will the House make it ARKANSAS NEW YORK, December 28.

Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" in the Museum TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It has been stated that the picture of the "Horse Fair" by Rosa Bonheur now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York city, was formerly owned by Mr. A. T. Stewart, at whose death it was purchased by Mr.

This is contradicted and the statement is made that Mr. Stewart never owned the picture, but that it was purchased in Europe by Mr. Vanderbiit and by him brought to this country.

Which is correct? RICHMOND, Va., December 26. Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" which hangs

original and only large size "Horse Fair" by there is a quarter size replica. The late Mr tewart purchased the New York picture a the William P. Wright sale. Later at the auction sale of the Stewart pictures Cornelius Vanderbilt bought the canvas for \$55,500. This occurred March 25, 1887. Cornelius Van-derbilt then presented the "Horse Fair" to NEW SHIPS FOR THE NAVY.

An Expert Opinion That the Bureau System Boes Not Give Us the Best Results. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The article in McClure's Magazine referred to by you in your judicial and timely editorial was of the greatest interest to all those having

the welfare of our navy at heart. The writer has been closely in touch with naval developments for the past twelve years, during which time he has often had usiness with the bureau officiais at Wash-That there has been trouble owing to the fight between the bureaus every outsider with a knowledge of existing conditions will be obliged to admit. That the result of this strife has been as serious as made out in the article referred to is, however, open to

well know, but, fortunately for us, all foreign navies, the British included, have similar faults. The battleships and armored cruisers now in commission and those ordered up to three years ago are undoubtedly equal to any affoat and have as few serious defects as those built up to that date for foreign pavies.

With regard to destroyers, the other active fighting branch of the service, we can unfortunately say but little. and even those which we have are not up to the standard set abroad.

Under these conditions it seems to me that the serious question for consideration is as to whether we are under the present system

whether we are under the present system laying down ships which will bear comparison with those building in England and the continental countries.

It will be generally conceded by most authorities that the real fighting elements of the navy consist of battleships, armored cruisers and destroyers. The present prevailing type in each class has been largely fixed as the result of experience gained during the Russian-Japanese war, together with the proved practical success, about that time, of the Parsons turbine and its introduction into the British and later into the continental navies.

of the Parsons turbine and its introduction into the British and later into the consinental navies.

There are now being built for these navies turbine driven battleships of the Dreadnought class with a sea speed of 21 knots and turbine driven armored cruisers of the Inflexible class, carrying 12 inch guns and having a sea speed of 24 to 25 knots. The standard British sea destroyer is a thoroughly good seagoing vessel and has a designed speed under service conditions of 33 knots. These boats fully loaded and in service condition have steamed at a speed of from 34 to 35 knots an hour for a period of six hours. With turbines they are therefore getting ships with good steady gun platforms which can easily maintain their full speed at sea under ordinary or fighting conditions. This is something we have never been able to obtain before with the old reciprocating engine ships.

gine ships.

As before stated, the great question for us is what are the bureaus—or, one might almost say, what is the one dominant bureau—giving us to cope with these new types building abroad?

abroad?

We are now starting on two new 20,000 ton battleships of the Dreadnought class. One of these is being fitted with turbines, but of a type which up to now has only been tried in one ship. The second battleship is being fitted with reciprocating engines, and with a ship of this size and speed it is generally conceded that the 21 knots called for cannot be maintained at sea under service conditions.

we are building no modern armored cruisers

We are building no modern armored cruisers and at the present time it is not even proposed that we should do so.

In the matter of destroyers we are still very badly off, as we have but very few as compared with the battleships and armored cruisers we now possess. Notwithstanding the small number available, however, and their general slow speed, we are at the present time only laying down five new destroyers. While these are to be fitted with turbines similar to those provided abroad, their trial speed will be only 28 knots. Their design is such and they carry so much more in commission than on trial, that their sea speed under service conditions cannot be expected to be more than 27 knots an hour. These are to be pitted against those built abroad and in Japan, which can easily maintain a sea speed of 34 knots.

To an outsider this would seem to indicate that the bureaus are not giving us ships which will be of the same class as those building abroad, and it behooves us therefore to find out why this should be the case. If the fault is with Congress we should be made aware of the fact, and if it is caused by the policy—or want of policy—of the Board of Construction and the bureaus, we should take means to insure that no such slip takes place in future.

You are certainly to be commended for the

uture.
You are certainly to be commended for the ray in which you have brought the matter o public attention.

Q. E. F. New York, December 27.

#### THE BLOWING UP OF THE MAINE. Why An Ex-Confederate Believes the Ex-

plosions Were Internal. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN of December 26 the letter of Mr. L. W. Tyler relative

in the civil war. Confederate engineers invented and perfected a sample submarine torpedo, for the testing of which as alde to Beauregard, I was ordered to accom-

pany Captain Lee in a small rowboat. The torpedo was placed on the point of a spar about eight feet in length, which was attached to the bow of the boat. The torpedo was cylindrical. made of thin copper, charged with powder, and was capped with several sensitive fuses on its conical end. Our objective, a decked flatboat was anchored in the vicinity of Castle Pinckney, Charleston harbor. We were very uncertain as t what was to happen to us when the explosion fool place. We struck the flatboat about midships when a large volume of water was thrown up ou side, nearly swamping our boat. The old flatboa immediately sank.

This settled the submarine torpedo question, and Beauregard ordered some large torpedoes made for the defence of Charleston. They were used

very successfully.

At the time of the Maine explosion I carefully read all the accounts in the press, also the pro-ceedings before the naval commission, and I have never seen one word of testimony to prove that when the ship was blown up any water up toward her decks. No torpedo of any kind especially a large one, could have exploded against her side without throwing up a perfect geyser of water. For this reason I give you the history o the first aubmarine torpedo, which was the parent of all the great inventions of later dates. There has never been a doubt in my mind that the ex aide of the Maine, as there were two distinct ex

losions, evidently of her two magazines.

About a year after the destruction of the Maine I read a report of the commanding officer of t United States man-of-war in the West Indies stating that he feared the magazine of his ship might explode when it became superheated on its exterior. I have conversed with many intelligen men about the destruction of the Maine, and all of them, with the exception of an ex-naval officer, who was interested in the commission, agree with me. Mr. L. W. Tyler is right. Our Government w that the truth may come out. We wanted a casu belli and got it. For our own reputation it may be best for the Maine to remain in the mud.

ALEXANDER ROBERT CHISOLM. NEW YORK, December 27.

How Shall He Measure a Viper's Tail? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Recently raversing the thickets which encompass this little village one perceived a blacksnake at least six machine called the world, allow one to ask exactly how the length of said demon's tall can be measured? The viper while sailing emitted a noise like a fish and sped swiftly across a sheet of ice. It is understood that any correspondent answering through Tax Sun must in no wise take into con ideration the size or number (according to the sideration the size or number (according to the poet, though Mr. C. Wesley Wootton has not been consulted) of "right guid willie-waughts, for suid ang syne" he has taken before and at the hour of Bosron, December 27.

The Family Fortunes. Grandpa's was history, Vague and quite remote. Had for anything he wished Oodles to devote; General impression left,

Little pile of note. Father's is biography. Made upon the spot, Work of modest amplitude All the details hot; Everything is verified. Nothing is forgot.

Son's is in the fiction class Sure thing in the Street, Hunches on a winning horse

Scheme that can't be beat.

THE NAVY SHORT OF CHAPLAINS.

Only Five Assigned to 14,000 Officers and To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While the Pacific Coast fleet is on its long errand of

peace and admonition thousands of citizens will watch its progress with pride and interest, rejoicing in the strength, efficiency and will watch its progress with process, rejoicing in the strength, efficiency and size of the new navy. Elaborate and eareful preparations have been made for the cruise, and coal ships have been sent away months. ahead to await the fleet. Old Captains officers and men have been relieved from duty with the ships until, without disparag-ing any of the less fortunate men in the other duty with the ships until, without squadrons, it may be truthfully said that the pick of the American navy is now on the ships bound for the Pacific Coast. The European press has weighed its merits, pointed out its defects; and the American press has commented on the display of naval power and drawn some interesting historical parallels.

But in all the comments and criticisms of the cruise I have noticed nothing about the moral welfare of the men. It is a matter of public interest and concern to the whole nation that no special preparation has been made for the moral and spiritual needs of the fleet. The chaplaincy corps of the United States Navy is the one department that has remained stationary for forty years, close of the civil war the corps numbered twenty-four men. Since then the number of ships has increased threefold, without one addition to the chaplaincy corps. Rather there has been a reduction in available men, for the navy yards, schoolships and rendexyous now give shore employment to about one-third of the staff. A certain percentage are of course on leave or special duties. are of course on leave or special duties. Roughly speaking, only one-third of the total number of chaplains are available for sea

number of chaplains are available for sea service.

The fleet now on the way to the Pacific Coast has sixteen ships, with a complement of 14,000 men and only five chaplains. Ninety odd per cent. of the enlisted men are native born Americans, recruited from good hoppes; used to the amenities of life, trained to go techurch, to observe the Sabbath and to revers sacred things. Is it fair or just that the ordinary means of grace should be denied these men? An injustice is done the men when their spiritual needs are thus neglected.

The citizens and the churches of the United States should know these facts. The chaplaincy corps will be augmented only when the demand is made with sufficient loudness to be heard.

George McPherson Hunter, Secretary American Seamen's Friend Society, New York, December 27.

### AN APOLOGUE FROM OHIO. The Dream of Theodore the Lesser-Not the Little.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Theodore The Luilaby sung in High Flaces eased him to slumber. Then Fancy made him a Brave Man, bold in the cause of a King. He became under the spell of the new charm a Bellerophon, who must

Is not this King like unto the first Serpent of Spring, dodging every Noise and striking at every Shadow?

Therefore must the Chimera be destroyed, and by the sword of the Bellerophon; for the King must be eased in his mind. And where is there one so brave as Bellerophon?

For days Burton the Bellerophon sat him about

the Fountain of Pirena, his hand clasped in that of the Child of the Main Chance. Into the crystal depths they looked expectantly, these two, the Child and the Man Bellerophon. In his hand the Man carried a jewelled bridle. And so while Burton the Bellerophon and the the Fountain there appeared in the Heavens a

White Thing, which soon nestled to the Earth, that it might have of the sparkling water to sinke its The White Thing was fair to behold. The bridle with which the King had armed Burton the Bellero

phon eased its charging wildness.
"Tis Pegasus!" cried Bellerophon, and he mounted. Then he girded on his armor and went forth to destroy the Chimera—the Vision of the King. "Twere a pity the Dream should end, bus all dreams

must. The White Thing came to earth after the Spell had passed away. And the multitude now jeer and cry: "Hypocrite, the Pegasus you saw in your dream was but the Boom that Failed and the Chimera but the creation of Vanity. You have dreamed prettily, but now take less Know, then, this Truth: Whom the gods of they first make mad."

And thus ended the story of a Dream.

From the Hyden Thousandsticks. The Christmas holidays are here once more and it is anticipated by every one that they will have good time. No doubt many will and will fully enjoy the pleasures of the hollidays but upon the other hand it is opportune time to warn the people of the pitfall that they might fall in. If not you it might be some of your neighbors or closest relatives, which would east a distinct gloom upon the days that you anticipated to be

It seems to be a habitual habit for some reckless deed to be done on that day some where in our county. It can hardly be accused to the mania our people have to usurp the blood of their fellow man, or either can it be accounted to some old begrudged fudist that wants to see his antagonisi bite the dust. It can only be accounted to the reciese drunk, and the ambition of some of our people to

By a whole lot, the larger majority of our eftisens are law abiding and respect the peace and dignity of our county and are sorely hurt when they see the morals of our county going to the bad appeal, that is to take time by the fore evry means to avert such trouble, if any should

prewing in your locality.

Christmas is the time for all to be happy and it is your duty as a private citizen to exercise such care as will maintain this stand. It is our wish a merry Christmas to all

The Wootton Conspiracy and Mystery.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: Propably Robert Louis Stevenson's criticism of Walt Whit man more fully answers Mr. Wootton's distrib-on the Good Gray Poet than anything else. on the Gord Gray Poet than anything class.

Stevenson says: "Whitman, it cannot be too soon explained, writes up to a system. He was a theorizer about society before he was a poet. He first perceived something wanting and these at down squarely to supply the want. The reader, running over his works, will find that he takes nearly as much pleasure in critically expounding his theory of poetry as in making poems. "He seems to have been early struck with the incelleacy of literature and its extrame insulability to the conditions. "He conocives the less of a literature which was to hister in the literature which was to hister in the literature. "He does the literature which was to he first heads, and have built the castle, but he pretends he has to made the poetry, but he flatters himself he has done something

lines of the foundation. He has not made the puetry, but he flatters himself he has done something toward making the poets. \* No one can appreciate Whitman's excellences until he has grown accustomed to his faults. \* I dever met any one who had known him personally who did not profess a solid affection and respect for the man's character. \* I do not know many better things in literature than the brief pictures which had been also become a silver the world's haden which ha tries to ally no the world's haden. better things in interaction with which he tries to stir up the wond's heart to make the heart beat at a brave story

Perhaps Stevenson's opinion is simost as waite-ble as Mr. Wootton's. Who is the latter individual, anyway? BROOKLYN, December 27. GARRET DYMARS

Knicker—Children are so disappoint Bocker—Yes, Johnny broke his indeed and won't break his dram.

For Winter Evenings. Bella-She set up a sleigh in the parlor

Stella-How does she get so many propos The New Photography From the Denver Republic